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MOHAMMED BEN YOUSSEF

The Popular King of Morocco

"I will never abandon my people..."

MOROCCAN OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION
75-18 Woodside Avenue
Elmhurst 73, N. Y.

We Will Never Abandon Our King

It is now proven that Mohammed Ben Youssef remains the only Sovereign of the Moroccan people. Never has such unanimous, such deeply rooted popularity been recorded in the history of Morocco. When a people as fervently religious as the Moroccans reach the point of suddenly abandoning their religious duties in protest, it reveals the extent of their pain, of the wounds, and of their love for their King.

We are not against Ben Arafa personally. We are against anyone who would presume to take the place of our beloved Sovereign, Mohammed Ben Youssef.

We will never abandon our King.

Mohammed Ben Youssef remains, now more than ever, the only valid spokesman in the eyes of the Moroccan people and of the law. He alone can make valid commitments for Morocco and make them accepted by the people.

Should France decide to seek an end to the existing tensions in Morocco, she will find in him a man of good will, a man of good sense, a man with the right solution.

Mohammed Ben Youssef

H.M. Mohammed V, Sultan of Morocco, now in exile, succeeded his father in 1927. Born in 1910, he is still a young man, and he does indeed symbolize all that is youthful, progressive and democratic in his country.

Realizing that for every subjected nation the first step towards independence is education, the King, from his earliest days, has concentrated on providing increasing educational facilities for his people. Since the French have done so little to establish the requisite schools for the Moroccans, the King spent much of his private money for building schools, and he persistently encouraged the better-to-do among his people to follow his example.

Conscious of the increasing duties and responsibilities of women in modern society, the King has provided his own daughters with a progressive education. The three young princesses have discarded the traditional veil. Before their exile, they moved about freely and wore modern dress. They were active in all kinds of social and charitable work, and patronized many forms of sport. The King's two sons also have received the best modern education available. Prince Moulay Hassan, Heir to the Throne, is among his country's leading all-around sportsmen, equally proficient in horseback riding, football, lawn-tennis, basketball and swimming. The King himself is famous as a shot, horseback rider and tennis player.

Though his sovereign status has been confirmed again and again by international treaties, the French authorities in Morocco, after breaking all their solemn promises and introducing direct rule, gradually robbed him of his powers. He could not appoint a Cabinet of his own choice, was not allowed to receive foreign visitors except those selected by the French, could not move about freely.

The French attitude towards him has been caused chiefly by the courage with which he tried to defend the interests of his people. For many years, he had been pressing for a change in the colonial status of his country. The only answer he received from the French was his exile, first in Corsica and then in Madagascar. In so doing, the French have once again violated their obligations under the treaty of Fez of 1912, Article 3 of which reads as follows:

> *"The Government of the French Republic pledges itself to lend constant support to His Sherifian Majesty against all dangers which might threaten his person or throne, or endanger the tranquillity of his states. The same support shall be given the heir to the throne and his successors."*

Today he shares his people's suffering in the far-off island of Madagascar, where he lives poorly, at his own expense. "He speaks little and never smiles. The only being who has succeeded in dispelling the bitterness of his exile is the little Princess (Amina, born in exile) whom he leads about by the hand, and who visibly has a very important place in his present activities and thoughts." (*Constellation*, No. 89.)

Excerpts from His Speeches

On Democracy

I have already stated on many previous occasions that the best regime under which a people should live is the democratic system. This regime guarantees to individuals as to communities a stable and peaceful existence. I am convinced that this regime will assure to my people the maximum of liberty, justice and humanity.

—November 18, 1951

No one can ignore the fact that we are living in an age of equality and democracy. Representative government is today regarded as the characteristic sign of the maturity of nations and of their crowning achievement. I wish to see my country organized on the basis of a constitutional monarchy.

—November 18, 1952

On Trade Unionism

In social affairs, I have always said that it is necessary to take an interest in the fate of the workers, who deserve sympathy and consideration, without distinction as to whether they are employed in commerce, industry or agriculture. It is indeed to the working class that we owe all the modern achievements that are to be observed today. It is therefore just to allow the workers to defend their interests by giving them the right to found trade unions, with complete freedom of association. Thus it will be possible for the workers to live a life compatible with human dignity, freed from the nightmare of ignorance, fear and poverty.

—November 18, 1952

On Negotiations with France

I will spare no effort in the interest of the Nation and the safeguarding of its integrity until the aspirations of my people shall have been satisfied.

It was with this purpose in mind that I went last year to Paris with the very special aim of making clear to the French government the whole Moroccan question and of seeking with the latter a solution which would be in conformity with our aspirations and ideals. As I have already declared in my previous Speech from the Throne, I have presented to the French Government two memoranda concerning this matter, dated respectively October 3rd and November 1st, 1951. These memoranda leave no room for any misunderstandings and make perfectly clear our desire to see Franco-Moroccan relations defined in a Convention guaranteeing to Morocco its full sovereignty and constructing its relations with France on new bases.

Due to the divergence between my views and those of the French Government, the gravity of the political crisis, which seemed likely to endanger Franco-Moroccan relations, and the absence of the negotiations the initiation of which I so earnestly desired, I submitted to the Government of the French Republic another memorandum (March 14, 1952) in which I reiterated, in the light of experience, that the wisest solution of the Moroccan problem lay in a re-definition of Franco-Moroccan relations guaranteeing to Morocco its sovereignty and to the French their legitimate interests.

The French reply did not mention the proposals that I had made in my memorandum of March 14, 1952, concerning the constitution of a Moroccan government, the improvement of the political atmosphere and the granting of certain essential liberties which my people do not enjoy, such as freedom of trade union organization.

—November 18, 1952

My desire to liberate Moroccan sovereignty and to enable my people to administer their own affairs is by no means incompatible with Franco-Moroccan friendship, especially as I and my people have given proof of this friendship by aligning ourselves on the side of the French in moments of stress when they needed friends, and have shown by our declarations and our memoranda that we want to safeguard French interests and cooperate with France in cultural, economic and international matters.

—November 18, 1952

On Morocco's Rightful Place

I am fully aware of the very grave tasks I have been called upon to perform in the fulfillment of my duties to God and my people, in the accomplishment of that mission with which I have been charged and in the conduct of those affairs which have been placed in my trust.

Since God has called me to this great task, I have given my solemn promise to strive without respite or discouragement until such time as I will have restored my country to its rightful place among the nations.

I strive in the national interest for the full satisfaction of the legitimate aspirations of my people by all means in my power.

—November 18, 1951

Quotations

"The Deposition of the Sultan was a serious step, carrying with it both domestic and international consequences, which cannot as yet be measured."

Mr. Robert Schuman
Present French Minister of Justice

"The last natural stronghold of his people, the Sultan Mohammed Ben Youssef has been the victim of the insatiable appetite of a coalition of colonists and swindlers. The *coup de force* is a real crime against a disarmed and defenseless people, a people who have always believed in our word, in our loyalty, and whom we have just plunged into an abyss of despair."

Mr. Robert Barrat
Secretary-General of the
French Catholic Association

"The facts speak for themselves. Sidi Mohammed Ben Youssef was never stronger than he is today. We are more dependent on him than he is on us. We hold only his body captive; but he holds the spirit and hearts of the millions of Moroccans who, a fact without precedence, go so far as to refuse to pray, since they are forbidden to pray in his name."

François Mauriac
Nobel Prize Winner
Member of the French Academy

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The Sultan with his children and David Schoenbrun, correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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